

Abstract

A method and apparatus is provided for controlling the bias point of a Mach-Zehnder modulator. The method begins by applying a dither signal to a DC bias that is applied to a Mach-Zehnder modulator. A component of an optical output signal provided by the Mach-Zehnder modulator that is synchronous with the dither signal is detected. The dither signal is adjusted to maintain the detected component of the optical output signal at a substantially constant value.